

Stipends/Loan Forgiveness/Scholarship Programs

Special Topic Workgroup

June 27, 2006

MHSA Workforce Education and
Training

Stakeholder Recommendations

- Develop stipends/loan forgiveness/scholarship programs to apply to consumers, family members, youth and current employees at all educational and professional levels
- Make them sufficiently flexible to address immediate financial needs, and tailored to personal situations, to include previous loan experiences
- Ensure that the amount of financial incentive is appropriate for the length of public mental health time committed

Stakeholder Recommendations(2)

- Think through unintended disincentives, such as tax ramifications, effect upon public benefits
- Link incentives to established workforce shortages and employer need

CMHPC Recommendation

- Develop a mechanism to create sustainable funding, such as an endowment, to permanently finance stipends/loan forgiveness/scholarship programs over time
- Work closely with the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) to set up and administer new loan repayment programs and scholarships created by MHSA
- The California Social Work Educational Consortium (CalSWEC) be the agency for the stipend program

Workgroup Strategies

Workgroup endorsed recommendations and established operating principles and outcome measures for creating a sustainable fund to permanently provide financial incentives to induce both prospective and current employees who meet employer needs for:

- Workforce shortages of critical skills
- Diversity and language proficiency shortfalls
- Promoting employment and career opportunities for consumers and family members in PMH

Workgroup Strategies(2)

- Employers should make awarding decisions at local and regional levels
- Also includes flexible and locally managed funding incentives, such as per diem, for training participation, and financial incentives for contract agencies to enable employees to take training time

Next Steps

- DMH and Health Professions Education Fund staff to meet and develop proposed funding mechanism structure for statewide loan forgiveness and scholarship programs
- DMH and CalSWEC staff to meet and develop proposed funding mechanism for any statewide professional organization to qualify to administer a stipend program
- Workgroup to meet August 15th to review progress on establishing programs